

**Dr. Peterson**

**CNRS Renewal Ceremony**

4-5:30 p.m. Friday, May 23, 2014, 3 rue Michel-Ange, F-75794 Paris cedex 16

- It is wonderful to be back at CNRS. Our last visit was in April 2010 to sign the first renewal of the UMI between Georgia Tech and CNRS. Indeed our UMI was established in 2006, and it was one of the very first, and certainly *the* first UMI between CNRS and a U.S. university.
- *Talk about importance of Global Engagement – GT Strategic Plan – Goal 4.* “As R&D becomes increasingly global, Georgia Tech will be prominent in innovation hubs around the world. We will create new portals in key global locations.” The UMI is a perfect example of such a successful hub for global engagement.
- Since its inception — and under the able leadership of its director, Abdallah Ougazzaden — UMI researchers have established an impressive record: 10 ANR contracts, four European contracts, an Open Lab with the industrial Peugeot PSA, and a dozen of industrial contracts and international programs, and more than 40 Ph.D. students, all in the past four years.
- It is very exciting for us that our partnership with CNRS allows Georgia Tech to be fully integrated as a participant in the EU landscape of Research and Development, including with industry. It also enables us to host French scientists on our campus in Atlanta. We welcome that and want even more. And I can guarantee you that Georgia Tech is the most Francophile campus in the United States!
- We are grateful for our partnership with CNRS, and we look forward to the next few years.